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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner in charge of the above identified application for the interview courteously extended to the undersigned attorney on June 25, 1998.

New claim 4 is specific to an apparatus for controlling gas lift in an oil well having a casing with tubing concentrically disposed therein. The apparatus includes a gas lift valve mounted on the tubing and having an inlet end in communication with a space between the tubing and the casing and an outlet in communication with an interior of the tubing. The gas lift valve consists of a housing and a nozzle mounted in the housing, said nozzle having a continuously open passage through which gas is allowed to flow, wherein the passage consists of a curved inlet portion through which gas flow is speeded up, a smooth straight, intermediate portion providing a main restriction to gas flow and a smooth, outwardly tapered, conical shaped outlet portion through which said gas flow is gradually slowed down, reducing the gas pressure loss and rendering the gas flow isoentropic.

The structure of the gas lift valve is now claimed in combination with a casing and tubing on an oil well. This combination is fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed since the prior art shows the combination of the prior art valve structure with the tubing and casing and the difference is in the details of the valve structure.

In the last Office Action, previous claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kelly et al. in view of Zingg. As pointed out at the interview, neither of these references disclose a gas


lift valve having the specifically claimed construction of the present valve in combination with an oil well wherein the valve is mounted on the tubing with an inlet end in communication with a space between the tubing and the casing and an outlet in communication with an interior of the tubing. Therefore, in view of the specific combination as now set forth in claim 4, it is submitted that claim 4 would not be obvious to one skilled in the art in view of the teachings of Kelly et al. and Zingg, taken either alone or in combination with each other. Therefore it is respectfully requested that claim 4 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action and feels that a further interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Filed concurrently herewith is a Petition and Fee Letter for a 3 Month Extension of time and check in the amount of \$950.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account no. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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